



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Alabama

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**MIDLAND CITY MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARM AND AMMUNITION**

***MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA*** – James Allan Gibson, age 46, of Midland City, Alabama, was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison for illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition. Gibson was previously convicted on March 19, 2008, of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition after a jury trial in United States District Court in Dothan, Alabama, United States Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today.

Gibson was found guilty of possessing a .22 caliber revolver and approximately 385 rounds of ammunition on January 23, 2007, in violation of federal law. Because Gibson was a convicted felon at the time, he was prohibited from possessing any guns or ammunition. Officers with the Wiregrass Violent Crime-Drug Task Force discovered the gun and ammunition while conducting a search of Gibson's residence. Gibson's previous felony convictions include Possession of Marijuana 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Attempted Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. In addition to the 33 months in federal prison, Gibson was sentenced to serve 3 years of Supervised Release after the end of his prison term.

The case was investigated and prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which seeks to prevent violent crime through enforcement of the federal firearms laws, such as the law prohibiting convicted felons from possessing firearms or

ammunition. The program is known as Alabama ICE in the Middle District of Alabama.

According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, “This office is dedicated to enforcing the federal firearms laws, including the law prohibiting convicted felons from possessing guns or ammunition.”

Gibson’s trial was the first federal criminal case tried at the United States Courthouse in Dothan, Alabama, in approximately 15 years. Previously all federal criminal trials in the Middle District of Alabama were conducted in Montgomery. Starting with Gibson’s case, future criminal cases arising out of the Southern Division of the Middle District of Alabama will be tried in Dothan.

Gibson’s case was investigated by agents from the Wiregrass Violent Crime-Drug Task Force, the Dale County Sheriff’s Office, the Daleville Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew Shepherd and Louis V. Franklin, Sr.